

REMARKS

Claims 1–9 and 14–27 are pending in the present application.

Claims 10–13 were previously canceled.

Claims 9, 22 and 23 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 9, 14, 22 and 24 were amended herein.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 (Anticipation)

Claims 1–8, 14–21 and 24–27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,852,591 to *Rhodes*. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. MPEP § 2131 at p. 2100-73 (8th ed. rev. 2 May 2004).

Amended independent claims 1 and 14 each recite that the capacitive electrode is proximate to a sensing surface on which a human finger is selectively placed for sensing of ridges and grooves on a surface of the human finger. Such a feature is not found in the cited reference.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 1–8, 14–21 and 24–27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has been overcome.

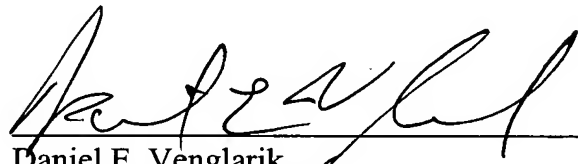
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *dvenglarik@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

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